

River Site in the Second Congressional District of South Carolina with Department of Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz and National Nuclear Security Administrator Frank Klotz where I appreciate their recognition of the dedicated professionals at the site promoting vital missions. Listed below is how I would have voted if I had been present if the flight from Columbia had not been delayed.

Roll Number 455—H.R. 935—To amend the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to clarify Congressional intent regarding the regulation of the use of pesticides in or near navigable waters, and for other purposes—“aye.”

Roll 456—H.R. 3202—Essential Transportation Worker Identification Credential Assessment Act—“aye.”

Roll 457—H.R. 3107—Homeland Security Cybersecurity Boots-on-the-Ground Act—“aye.”

#### OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

#### HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 29, 2014*

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,611,454,807,678.76. We've added \$6,984,577,758,765.68 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$6.9 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

#### HONORING VENEZUELAN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY MEMBER AND OPPOSITION LEADER MÁRIA CORINA MACHADO

#### HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 29, 2014*

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to an individual who, at great risk to her own life and safety, has been standing up for democracy and freedom in Venezuela. María Corina Machado, a Member of the National Assembly and a leader of the opposition, has taken a courageous stand against the repressive regime of President Nicolás Maduro, speaking out on behalf of those whose voices have been silenced by fear of arrest or violence.

Since the death of former President Hugo Chavez, the Maduro regime has maintained Venezuela on the path of suppressing democracy, silencing protest, preventing press freedom, and intimidating political opponents like Ms. Machado. In one instance, Maduro supporters physically assaulted opposition Members in the National Assembly chamber, and Ms. Machado was beaten and had her nose broken. None of the perpetrators were brought to justice.

Over the past several months, Venezuela has seen a number of mass protests by those

seeking greater democracy. These are not part of a ‘coup d’etat,’ as President Maduro has alleged, but a result of his oppressive regime. The Venezuelan people deserve the chance to build a free and democratic nation and choose their own future course, free from fear. As democracy continues to come under assault by the Maduro regime, Americans will continue to look to Venezuela with a deep concern for the safety of its people and solidarity with those seeking to restore their freedom.

Mária Corina Machado has helped draw international attention to the ongoing repression in her country, and for her work she will be honored by the International Foundation for Electoral Systems with its annual Charles T. Manatt Democracy Award on October 1. This annual award recognizes individuals who have demonstrated a commitment to advancing freedom and democratic values in their nations and around the world.

I will continue to monitor the situation in Venezuela closely, and I will continue to highlight the work of courageous pro-democracy activists like Ms. Machado, who have faced death threats and been accused of treason by the ruling regime. The United States is watching what takes place in Venezuela with great interest, and Congress will be paying particular attention to the safety and security of Ms. Machado and other opposition figures who have dared to speak out for the rights of the Venezuelan people.

I congratulate Ms. Machado on being chosen for the Charles T. Manatt Democracy Award, and I stand with her and other peaceful supporters of democratic reform as they seek to build a brighter future for all Venezuelans.

#### HONORING EMMITT AND PAT SMITH

#### HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 29, 2014*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Emmitt and Pat Smith, the recipients of the Congressional Award Foundation's 2014 Horizon Award.

The Horizon Award is bestowed upon individuals who have made a significant commitment to expanding opportunities for all Americans through personal contributions. Emmitt and Pat Smith, exemplify the virtues of integrity, respect, accountability and character embodied by this award. Through their philanthropic activities, they have inspired young people throughout North Texas to reach for their dreams and to do the seemingly impossible.

The Pat and Emmitt Smith Charities create and fund unique educational experiences and enrichment opportunities for underprivileged youth. Because of their sacrifices and humanitarian efforts, these deserving children are given the opportunity to attend the most prestigious learning institutions throughout the city of Dallas.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Emmitt and Pat Smith's selfless contributions to the City of Dallas and communities beyond. Because of their partnership,

the City of Dallas is better; our nation is better; and our future is brighter.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 29, 2014*

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, on July 28, 2014, I was unable to be present for all votes due to my attendance at a graduation ceremony at Fort Hood, TX.

If present, I would have voted accordingly on the following votes: H.R. 935, Reducing Regulatory Burdens Act—“aye”; H.R. 3202, Essential Transportation Worker Identification Credential Assessment—“aye”; and H.R. 3107, Homeland Security Cybersecurity Boots-on-the-Ground Act—“aye.”

#### HONORING BLUEGRASS COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE

#### HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 29, 2014*

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Bluegrass Community and Technical College, located in Lexington, Kentucky, on the celebration of its 75th anniversary.

Since its establishment 75 years ago, the Bluegrass Community and Technical College (BCTC) has set an example of excellence for central Kentucky and provided Kentucky's youth with strong higher education programs.

As the largest two-year institution in the State, BCTC offers daytime, evening and weekend classes at six convenient locations and online. With more than 11,500 students, BCTC has recently expanded to its third campus in Lexington—the Newtown campus—to accommodate its continued growth. The Bluegrass Community and Technical College is specifically designed to promote the advancement of academic achievements in young people. The BCTC education encourages students to achieve success at their own pace and to explore various technical programs to help further their careers.

BCTC's recent expansion is a testament to its continued success in the educational community and the positive impact it is making on students and employers across our Commonwealth. I commend BCTC for its dedication to education and community outreach, and I know that its varied educational services will continue to serve the people of our great district for years to come.

#### RECOGNIZING ISMAEL “SMILEY” CORDOVA

#### HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 29, 2014*

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of New Mexico resident, and businessman Ismael “Smiley” Cordova.